

CHELTHENHAM UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS 125TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, 1998, Cheltenham United Methodist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary. This white-framed country church in Cheltenham, Maryland has been serving the religious and secular needs of its community since 1873 when its founders met under the chestnut trees that grew where the church now stands.

Although small in size, Cheltenham Church is very active and has a number of ministries that reach out to the local community and beyond. A few of their many activities include serving meals at the Hughesville Shelter for Battered Women, making 1000-plus sandwiches for the homeless for Martha's Table in Washington, D.C., contributing to the Upper Marlboro Food Bank, assisting patients at St. Elizabeth's Hospital at their Sunday church services, and sponsoring several needy families in the area.

Cheltenham Church is an excellent example of late 19th century rural church architecture. Among its other features, the original door-knob and chandeliers remain. The pulpit, still in use today, was made from a cherry tree that fell on church property before the church was built. The bricks for the foundation were hauled from nearby Nottingham by horse and wagon and had been used during the 18th century as ballast in English ships.

Although the church stands a short distance from a major highway, it retains much of its historic setting, buffered by its historic graveyard. It is a noticeable landmark in a still rural area of Prince George's County.

To the members of Cheltenham United Methodist Church, and to their members who have gone on before, we congratulate you on your 125 years of service to your church and to your community!

INTRODUCTION OF TAX LEGISLA-
TION TO CLARIFY TAX TREAT-
MENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX
REDUCTION VOUCHERS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation along with several of my colleagues of the Massachusetts Delegation to correct the tax treatment of real property tax reduction vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work.

The House of Representatives in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has passed legislation that would exempt real property tax vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work from income for state tax purposes. Similar legislation is pending in the State Senate. Many towns in Massachusetts have implemented a program which allows senior citizens to volunteer in exchange for a voucher of \$500 to be used towards their property taxes.

Seniors can volunteer to work in libraries, recreational centers, parks, and senior centers in exchange for a voucher to be applied to their property tax.

This program benefits both the community and the individuals volunteering. My legislation would allow vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work to not be included in gross income. The legislation also exempts these vouchers from employment taxes. Senior citizens who are age 65 are eligible for this legislation. The effective date is for payments made after January 1, 1999.

This legislation enhances an important program that is currently taking place in many towns in Massachusetts. I hope that we can address this issue this year and that there will be an appropriate legislative vehicle.

IN HONOR OF THE ISRAEL CENTER
OF HILLCREST MANOR'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the members of the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor as they join together to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the synagogue. Through the insight of such dedicated and talented community members as Joe Goldstein, Eric Gerstel and Sydney Abrahams, the synagogue's first president, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor came into being in 1948, the same year the State of Israel was created. Through unique determination and a indefatigable spirit, these men went from door to door throughout the Flushing, Queens neighborhood building up both spiritual and financial support to establish this synagogue.

Since its inception, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor has brought to the community a sense of dedicated service and a foundation of stability that has allowed its membership to raise their families and incorporate all age groups into an environment sensitive to their needs.

The Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor, under the leadership of Rabbi Michael Strasberg, its spiritual leader for more than two decades, and its current president, Leo Lederer, has continued the record of service and caring that is the hallmark of this great house of worship. Having provided the Flushing community for half a century with a vibrant Hebrew School, youth program and a highly effective Men's Club and Sisterhood, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor is now prepared to lead its members into the second half century of fulfillment.

There are few organizations that have emerged with a continuous record of compassionate achievement as has the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor. I ask all my colleagues to rise with me in congratulating the synagogue, its members and officers on this wonderful achievement and extending our warmest support for another fifty years of service.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING AN-
NETTE LEAZENBY, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Annette Leazenby, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Annette is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Annette Leazenby is an exceptional student at Waldron High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Annette is also involved with the high school band and the drama club. She is a member of the varsity basketball, volleyball, softball and track teams. Outside of school, Annette has been involved in volunteer work at her local church, and is taking college classes.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Annette Leazenby for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

IN COMMEMORATION ON THE
FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF VIET-
NAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Fourth Anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day. I would also like to congratulate the International Committee for Freedom for organizing this important event and I commend the participants who have come together to promote human rights for Vietnam.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on the Government of Vietnam to respect fundamental human rights and release their religious and political prisoners. The people of Vietnam have waited too long for these basic changes to take place.

By commemorating Vietnam Human Rights Day, we confirm the necessity of placing human rights at the center of United States policy toward Vietnam.

We, as a nation, and as a people, need to be steadfastly committed to human rights, democracy, economic liberty and religious freedom for all the people of Vietnam.